FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2014

CONTACT:  City Councilor Brad Winter, 505-489-0327
          City Councilor Isaac Benton, 505-553-5675
          County Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins, 505-503-0314
          County Commissioner Wayne Johnson, 505-238-9352
          NM Senator Bill O’Neill, 505-450-9263
          NM Senator Sander Rue, 505-301-0189

City, County, State and UNMH Partner in Addressing Mental Health,
Substance Abuse and Homelessness in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE – A bipartisan group of elected officials representing the City of
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico announced today a collaborative
effort to address the issues of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse in Albuquerque.
A Working Group and a Task Force will be formed to make recommendations to policy makers
about coordination, resource needs and programs.

The group met last week, along with representatives with subject matter expertise from each
entity and UNMH, to identify members of a small, core Working Group and to establish a
process for identifying members of a larger advisory Task Force. They also outlined
responsibilities of each group.

The Working Group will consist of a representative from the City, County, State, UNMH,
District Court and Metro Court. Funding for a paid coordinator was included in the budget
recently passed by City Council for the upcoming fiscal year beginning in July. This group will
take input from the Task Force.

The Task Force will include a variety of stakeholder representatives, including the elected
officials, consumers, service providers, funders, insurers, advocates, crises response and
corrections. A webpage on the City of Albuquerque website has been set up at
http://www.cabq.gov/council/task-force-on-mental-health, where those interested in participating
in and contributing to the dialogue can submit a letter of interest and a résumé.

# # # #